

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PA-02 H-02
SSM-05 SIG-03 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 SP-02
SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 HA-05 ACDA-12
MCE-00 /112 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
PA/PRS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. MARTHINSEN
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

-----111827 162358Z /14

O 162314Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
SECDEF WASHDC 0000

JCS WASHDC 0000
CIA WASHDC 0000
NSC WASHDC 0000
USICA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS POUCH

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - AUGUST 16

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR AUGUST 16, 1978. TODAY'S
SPOKESMAN WAS HODDING CARTER III.

Q. HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED DISAPPROVAL OF THE
SALE OF SOME AIRPLANES TO IRAN -- NEW AIRPLANES.

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A. I'M NOT GOING TO GO INTO WHO RECOMMENDED AN INTER-
AGENCY QUESTION. I WILL, HOWEVER, NOTE TO YOU, WE HAVE
OFFERED TO SELL IRAN 31 F-4E AIRCRAFT TOGETHER WITH 1,000
SHRIKE MISSILES. THE SHRIKE WILL PROVIDE IRAN WITH A
LIMITED ANTI-RADIATION CAPABILITY. IRAN HAS ACCEPTED OUR
OFFER OF THE SHRIKE MISSILES AND IS STUDYING THE PROPOSAL
FOR F-4E'S.

Q. I DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT AT ALL. THE USUAL SONG AND DANCE
ABOUT ARMS SALES IS THAT THE POTENTIAL CLIENT ASKS AND THEN
WE, LIKE RELUCTANT VIRGINS, CONSIDER WHAT THEY WANT. WE
HAVE OFFERED SOMETHING, AND THEY ARE CONSIDERING IT. THIS
IS A BRAND NEW PROCEDURE.

A. NO.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, YOU KNOW VERY WELL THAT THERE ARE
NEGOTIATIONS OVER ARMS AS TO WHAT IS ASKED BY VARIOUS
PEOPLE; WHAT WE, UPON A STUDY OF THEIR NEEDS, ASCERTAIN
MAY BE BEST TO MEET THEM WITHIN THE TERMS OF OUR OWN ARMS
CONTROL POLICY AND THE ARMS SALE POLICY; THEN AN OFFER IS
MADE.

Q. WOULD IT BE HELPFUL TO ASK WHAT THEY ASKED FOR TO
ROUND THIS THING OUT?

A. WE BELIEVE THAT THE SHRIKE MISSILE WILL PROVIDE THE

APPROPRIATE CAPABILITY FOR AIR DEFENSE PURPOSES AT THIS TIME. I BELIEVE THAT, UNDERSTANDABLY, THE IRANIANS WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THE MOST ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE. THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE OFFERED THEM.

Q. WHICH IS?

A. IN THIS CONTEXT THE F-4G, WHICH IS A WILD WEASEL.
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Q. IS THAT WHAT THEY ASKED FOR?

A. I UNDERSTAND THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN SOMETHING THEY HAD CONSIDERED.

Q. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN F-4G AND AN F-4E?

A. THE MISSILE CAPABILITY IS ONE OF THE MAJOR ONES.

Q. THAT MEANS THAT A WILD WEASEL CANNOT BE HUNG ON AN F-4E WITHOUT A CHAIN --

A. MY FRIEND, YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE THAT KIND OF QUESTION TO THE PENTAGON. I DON'T KNOW.

Q. MR. CARTER, WHAT IS THE VALUE OF THE 31 F-4E'S AND THE 1,000 SHRIKE'S?

A. I DON'T KNOW. I WILL TAKE THE QUESTION.

IN THE MEANTIME YOU MIGHT TRY THE PENTAGON ON THAT ONE.

Q. HOW MANY F-4'S DOES IRAN ALREADY HAVE?

A. I DON'T HAVE THE NUMBER. SOMEBODY, I BELIEVE IN THE STAR TODAY, MAY HAVE RUN SOMETHING. YOU MIGHT AGAIN ASK

DEFENSE. IN THE MEANTIME I WILL TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q. WELL, SINCE YOU HAVE MADE REFERENCE NOW, TO THE ITEM IN THE STAR, THE ITEM IN THE STAR SUGGESTS THAT IT WAS THE SHAH WHO INITIATED THE REQUEST FOR 31 F4'S. IT
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DOESN'T SPECIFY, BUT I ASSUME IT WOULD ALSO BE THE F-4G'S AND IN RESPONSE TO THAT WE OFFERED THE F-4E'S. IS THAT THE WAY IT WORKED OUT RATHER THAN JUST AN OFFER AS YOU SEEM TO SUGGEST?

I MEAN, YOU MADE IT SOUND AS THOUGH WE HAVE OFFERED--

A. NO. I SAID ORDINARILY PEOPLE COME IN SAYING WHAT THEY WANT. WE NEGOTIATE WITH THEM, DISCUSS WITH THEM WHAT IT IS THAT WE THINK AND THEY THINK IS NECESSARY UNDER THE SITUATION AS THEY AND WE DEFINE IT.

Q. SO, IN FACT, THERE IS NO CONFLICT THERE?

THEY MAY WELL HAVE COME AND SAID--

A. NO. I AM NOT GOING TO DEAL WITH THE SPECIFICS OF THE ORIGINAL REQUEST, ONE, BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW, AND TWO, BECAUSE IT IS NOT UNUSUAL UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES FOR ORIGINAL REQUESTS NOT TO BE TOTALLY REFLECTED IN WHAT IS FINALLY OFFERED. THAT IS A FAIRLY STANDARD THING.

Q. BUT A SHRIKE, JUST TO KIND OF PURSUE THIS A LITTLE FURTHER, A SHRIKE MISSILE IS USEABLE ON OTHER AIRCRAFT PRESUMABLY?

A. IF I KNEW THAT MUCH ABOUT IT, I WOULD BE BRIEFING AT DOD. I DO NOT KNOW HOW THESE THINGS ACTUALLY WORK.

Q. THEY WERE USED ON F-5'S.

A. YOU KNOW, I JUST SIMPLY DON'T KNOW. I DON'T KNOW THE MILITARY.

Q. WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN, HODDING? I MEAN, WHEN DID WE MAKE THE OFFER, AND WHEN DID HE SAY THAT HE WOULD LIKE UNCLASSIFIED

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THE MISSILES?

A. I WOULD REFER A LOT OF THOSE QUESTIONS OVER TO DEFENSE.

Q. WHAT DID IRAN SAY WHEN YOU MADE THE OFFER?

THEY ACCEPTED THE SHRIKE, AND THEY ARE STUDYING THE

F-4E?

WHEN DO YOU EXPECT TO HEAR FROM THEM AGAIN?

A. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY HAVE ACCEPTED THE SHRIKE, AND THEY ARE STUDYING THE PROPOSAL FOR THE F-4E'S.

Q. SO WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

A. I THINK WHAT I SAID IS UNDERSTANDABLY THE IRANIANS WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THE MOST ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE.

Q. YOU SAID THAT IT IS A DEFENSIVE SYSTEM. THE SHRIKE IS A CLEAR OFFENSIVE SYSTEM USED IN ORDER TO DETECT THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILE SITES OF THE ENEMY IN ORDER TO INTRUDE AND DESTROY HIS GROUND TARGETS. HOW CAN YOU SAY IT IS A DEFENSIVE MISSILE?

A. LUCKILY I CAN SAY IT BECAUSE I HAVEN'T THE FAINTEST IDEA. I HAVE TO TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT. I DO NOT KNOW ABOUT IT.

Q. NO. IT IS CLEARLY AN OFFENSIVE MISSILE.

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A. I CAN NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY THAT. I DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT WEAPONS SYSTEMS.

Q. NO, BUT YOU HAVE TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT YOU SAID. YOU SAID IT IS A DEFENSIVE SYSTEM, FOR A DEFENSIVE TARGET PURPOSE OF IRAN. YOU HAVE TO STAND BY YOUR WORDS.

A. I AM GIVING YOU WHAT HAS COME OUT OF THOSE WHO PRESUMABLY KNOW ABOUT THIS QUESTION.

Q. ISRAEL IS ANXIOUS ABOUT IT BECAUSE IT MIGHT BE TRANSFERRED AS OTHER AIR SYSTEMS IN POSSESSION OF THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT THAT WERE TRANSFERRED TO ARAB COUNTRIES.

A. THE SAME PROVISIONS, OF COURSE, ON TRANSFER TO THIRD COUNTRIES WOULD PERTAIN.

Q. HAVE ANY F-4'S BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM IRAN TO ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE AREA?

A. I DON'T KNOW. I WILL TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q. WHAT WAS THE BASIS FOR REFUSING THE F-4G'S?

WHAT IT NOT INTRODUCING NEW TECHNOLOGY INTO AN AREA THAT DOESN'T HAVE IT?

A. I AM NOT SURE WHAT ALL CONSIDERATIONS WENT INTO IT. I CAN TAKE THAT ALSO.

Q. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, THE PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL IS QUOTED IN TODAY'S PAPER AS SAYING THAT ISRAEL HAD A RIGHT TO ESTABLISH NEW SETTLEMENTS IN THE WEST BANK, BUT CHOSE NOT TO DO SO TO GIVE A BOOST TO THE FORTHCOMING SUMMIT.

HOW WOULD THAT SQUARE WITH THE PLEDGE OF DAYAN LAST
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SEPTEMBER THAT THERE WOULD BE NO SETTLEMENTS FOR THE COMING YEAR?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO TRY TO SQUARE VARIOUS STATEMENTS BY VARIOUS PEOPLE IN THIS FIELD. OUR POSITION HAS BEEN STATED ON THIS. MR. BEGIN HAS STATED A POSITION. I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON IT.

Q. THERE IS A REPORT IN A KUWAITI NEWSPAPER TODAY THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS ANXIOUS TO INVITE KING HUSSEIN TO THE CAMP DAVID SUMMIT.

A. I'M NOT AWARE OF ANY SUCH DESIRE.

Q. DO YOU INTEND TO INVITE KING HUSSEIN TO THE SUMMIT?

A. NO.

Q. WOULD YOU ACCEPT HIM IF HE CAME?

A. I CAN'T SPECULATE ON ANYTHING LIKE THAT. BUT THE INVITATIONS HAVE BEEN EXTENDED TO THE PEOPLE WHO ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE SUMMIT.

Q. JUST TO CLOSE ALL THE LOOPHOLES IF THERE IS NO PROBLEM HERE, THERE IS NO CHANCE THAT KING HUSSEIN WILL BE ATTENDING THE CAMP DAVID SUMMIT, AS THINGS NOW STAND?

A. I KNOW OF NO CHANCE.

Q. FORGIVE ME, BUT YOU'RE OPENING UP A LOOPHOLE AGAIN.

A. I APPRECIATE THAT. I SAY THAT THERE'S NO CHANCE, AND UNCLASSIFIED

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IF IT TURNS OUT THAT I'M WRONG, I'LL LET YOU KNOW.

Q. PUT IT THE OTHER WAY: WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE KING HUSSEIN AT THE SUMMIT?

A. LET ME PUT IT ANOTHER WAY: OUR INTENTIONS CLEARLY IN ALL OF THIS IS TO BRING THE PEACE PROCESS FAR ENOUGH ALONG SO THAT WE CAN ACHIEVE A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND AT SOME POINT, AS WE'VE INDICATED ALL ALONG, THE PARTICIPATION OF KING HUSSEIN WOULD BE A MATTER WHICH WE THINK WOULD BE VERY USEFUL. THIS SUMMIT, HOWEVER, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, WAS PLANNED SO THAT THERE COULD BE DIRECT TALKS BETWEEN THE EGYPTIANS AND THE

ISRAELIS ON MATTERS WHICH THEY HAD BEEN DISCUSSING DIRECTLY IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR SOME TIME.

Q. IF I MAY FOLLOW THAT, THEN, THOSE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE EGYPTIANS AND THE ISRAELIS HAVE TO DO WITH TERRITORY WHICH HAS SOMETIMES BEEN CONSIDERED A PART OF JORDAN.

A. YES.

Q. IS IT YOUR HOPE THAT THE CAMP DAVID SUMMIT WOULD LEAD TO NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HUSSEIN MIGHT ATTEND?

A. WE HAVE ALWAYS HOPED THAT OUR EFFORTS WOULD LEAD TO NEGOTIATIONS THAT OTHER PARTIES COULD ATTEND. THAT HOPE REMAINS.

2. THE FOLLOWING ANSWERS HAVE BEEN POSTED IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS TAKEN AT THE NOON BRIEFING OF AUGUST 16TH.

Q. WHAT IS THE VALUE OF THE 31 F-43S AND 1,000 SHRIKE MISSILES WE HAVE OFFERED TO SELL TO IRAN?

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A. THE COST OF THE 31 F-4E'S IS \$310 MILLION AND THE 1,000 SHRIKES \$100 MILLION. THESE FIGURES INCLUDE HARDWARE, SPARES AND SUPPORT.

Q. HOW MANY F-4'S DOES IRAN ALREADY HAVE?

A. IRAN'S CURRENT INVENTORY HAS 166 F-4E'S AND 27 F-4D'S.

Q. WHAT CONSIDERATIONS WENT INTO THE DECISION NOT TO SELL F-4G'S TO IRAN?

A. IN CONSIDERING ANY FOREIGN MILITARY SALE, WE TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION A NUMBER OF FACTORS, INCLUDING THE GUIDELINES OF OUR ARMS TRANSFER POLICY, THE REQUESTING COUNTRY'S DEFENSIVE REQUIREMENTS, THE MILITARY BALANCE IN THE

REGION AND THE OVERALL SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES. --THESE WERE APPLIED IN EXAMINING RECENT PROPOSED SALES TO IRAN.

Q. HAS IRAN TRANSFERRED ANY F-4'S TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. NO.

IRAN IS WELL AWARE OF THE NEED TO OBTAIN U.S. GOVERNMENT APPROVAL FOR ANY PROPOSAL TO TRANSFER U.S. ORIGIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO A THIRD COUNTRY. CHRISTOPHER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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